

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1032

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T CONAKRY 1288

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, GV, PINT, FR

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON FORMER GUINEAN AMBASSADOR TO U.S.
KARIM BANGOURA

1. IN EARLY JUNE 1975 EMBASSY RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM U.S. AID OFFICIAL WITH GUINEAN CONTACTS THAT FORMER GUINEAN AMBASSADOR TO U.S., KARIM BANGOURA, IS STILL ALIVE AND IN REASONABLY GOOD HEALTH. ACCORDING TO REPORT, AS LATE AS MID-MAY 1975, BANGOURA BEING HELD PRISONER WITH OTHER FORMER HIGH GUINEAN OFFICIALS AT MILITARY BASE IN KINDIA.

2. EVIDENTLY BANGOURA AND OTHER SENIOR PRISONERS ARE MOVED FROM PLACE TO PLACE EVERY THREE OR FOUR MONTHS. THE GUINEANS IN TOUCH WITH BANGOURA WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE HIM WITH SOME FOOD AND MEDICINES. THEY WERE ALSO ABLE TO TAKE HIM FROM HIS SMALL CELL, WHICH HE WAS SHARING WITH FORMER MINISTER DIOP, FOR A BRIEF VISIT IN THE TOWN OF KINDIA.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS SENSITIVE SUBJECT AND INFORMATION SHOULD BE CONTROLLED MOST JUDICIOUSLY. KARIM BANGOURA IS UNCLE OF MOHAMED BANGOURA, CHIEF OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR RELATIONS IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE PROTOCOL DIVISION AND REGULAR EMBASSY CONTACT. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE KARIM BANGOURA WAS ACCUSED OF
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BEING IN EMPLOY OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND

RECEIVING APPROXIMATELY US \$1 MILLION FOR HIS SERVICES.

4. EMBASSY UNABLE TO PREDICT WHETHER RELEASE BY PRESIDENT TOURE OF 18 FRENCH PRISONERS HELD ON POLITICAL CHARGES MAY LEAD TO LIKE RELEASE OF GUINEAN PRISONERS STILL UNDER DETENTION, SUCH AS BANGOURA. ACCORDING TO CONAKRY RUMORS BANGOURA AND OTHERS IN SO-CALLED "A-CATEGORY" OF PRISONERS MAY BE RELEASED BEFORE END OF THIS YEAR. GIVEN CURRENT INTERNAL GUINEAN CONDITIONS EMBASSY TENDS TO VIEW SUCH REPORTS AS OVERLY OPTIMISTIC AND CERTAINLY PREMATURE. UN NEGOTIATOR ANDRE LEWIN NOTED TO PRESS IN DAKAR AUGUST 14 THAT A NUMBER OF MIXED NATIONALITY PRISONERS, INCLUDING ARCHBISHOP TCHIDIMBO, REMAINED IN GUINEAN PRISONS AND HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO INTERVENE WITH GOG FOR THEIR RELEASE. IMAGINE THIS GROUP HAS MORE CHANCE OF EARLY FREEDOM THAN THOSE IN BANGOURA'S CATEGORY.

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